

OCTOBER 9, 2020

WEEKLY UPDATE

CITY OF DESOTO

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

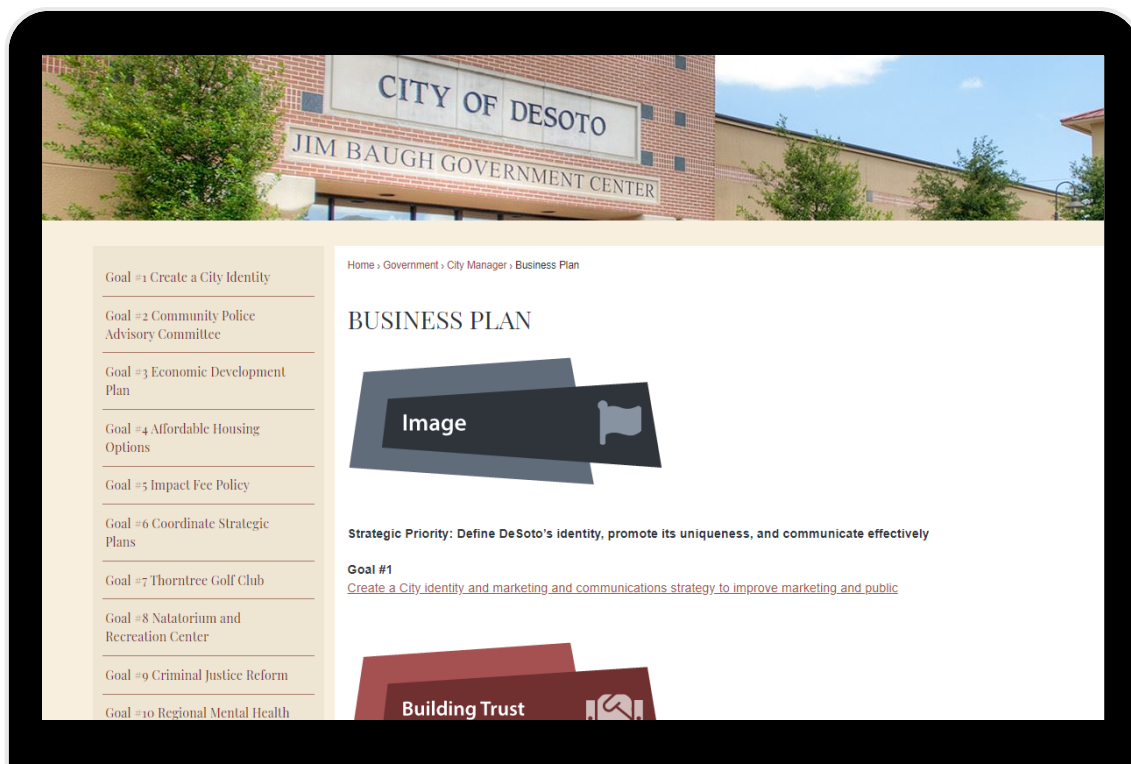
PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

DESOTO COUNTS! 2020 DEADLINE EXTENDED

The deadline for the 2020 Census has been extended until October 31. The City continues to encourage residents to complete their 2020 Census forms to ensure that an accurate resident count is conducted. The recent count shows that DeSoto has a response rate of **74.0%**, which is higher than the State average of **62.5%**, and the nationwide rate of **66.7%**. The 2020 Census is still available online for completion. Enumerators are making home visits to those who have not completed the Census form.

NEW BUSINESS PLAN FEATURED ON WEBSITE

The new Business Plan is now available on the City's website! The page features all 14 Business Plan Goals along with corresponding links to each goal for quarterly progress reports. You can now view the Business Plan by clicking the following link: www.desototexas.gov/BusinessPlan



PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

TXDOT REHABILITATION PROJECT - BELTLINE RD.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) began work to rehabilitate Belt Line Road between Hampton Road and Polk Street. The project scope consists of removing two inches of existing asphalt pavement and re-paving with two inches of new asphalt. Removal of existing asphalt is complete, and re-paving is in progress. Once the new pavement is in place, the road will be re-stripped to delineate lanes.

As part of the same rehabilitation project, TxDOT is also removing and replacing select concrete pavement panels along Belt Line Road between Hampton Road and Whitewater Trail. TxDOT-Dallas District owns and maintains Belt Line Road. Sections of pavement are identified for rehabilitation based on condition assessment results and available funding. The project is being managed by the TxDOT Southwest Maintenance Office, which is based in Cedar Hill. **TxDOT completed this project.**

WINTERGREEN RD. REALIGNMENT PROJECT

The Wintergreen Road intersection realignment project located at the DeSoto-Duncanville-Cedar Hill city limit will soon enter its second phase of construction. The project is a multi-agency collaboration, with the City of DeSoto, City of Cedar Hill, City of Duncanville, and Dallas County as project partners. Dallas County is overseeing the project construction. The on-going Phase 1 construction will build the new Wintergreen roadway extension. Phase 2 construction will expand approximately 600 feet of Duncanville Road to four lanes, beginning at the Main Street intersection and continuing south to the Windmill Hill Preserve. Upon completion of Phase 1 construction in early October, Duncanville Road will be closed and traffic will be re-routed to the new Wintergreen Road pavement. Access to the Windmill Hill Preserve parking lot on Duncanville Road will be suspended during Phase 2 construction. The estimated duration for the parking lot closure is October 2020 through March 2021. As an alternative, park patrons may use the smaller parking lot, located on Wintergreen Road approximately 1,500 feet west of Primrose Lane. **All construction is estimated to be substantially complete in late spring 2021.**

PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

CITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Effective October 1, Ellis Davis Field House offers free drive-through flu shots to Dallas County residents. COVID-19 testing continues to be provided at the Ellis Davis Field House and Walmart on Beltline Road. Walmart offers appointment-only drive-through testing, open daily from 7:00 am to 9:00 am. Ellis Davis Field House testing center is open Monday through Saturday 7:30 am to 4:00 pm under the direction of DeSoto PD/FD and Parkland Hospital staff. To date, there have been 928 DeSoto addresses with positive cases and 1,531 individual positive cases.

Last Friday's Red Cross blood drive was a success! All 42 time slots were filled resulting in 34 donors. If you would more information about local blood drives, becoming a volunteer or curious about other blood donation services, please visit www.redcrossblood.org.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ENTRANCE EXAMS



The application period closed on October 2. In total, the Fire Department received 273 applications! On Saturday, October 17, entrance exams will be conducted for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic at DeSoto West Middle School. Applicants who receive a minimum score of 70 percent will be invited to take the physical agility (PA) test at the DeSoto Fire Training Academy. After successful completion of the examination and PA testing, an eligibility list will be established and will remain in effect for twelve months or until exhausted. Preference may be granted to currently certified police officers.

PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

RESIDENTIAL & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHTS

On September 25, NDC began contacting applicants for both the residential and business assistance programs. NDC initiated pre-screening and approval for applicants in both residential and business assistance programs. Applicants received an email with instructions, links, and a video on how to submit a full application. The City of DeSoto is following up with reminders for any late applications and pre-screening.

RESIDENTS SELECTED FOR THE LOTTERY

200

50 PEOPLE WAITLISTED

DeSoto Residential Grant Stats

- African-American – 89%
- Caucasian – 4%
- Asian-American – <1%
- Latinx – 8%
- Disabled – 8%

BUSINESSES SELECTED FOR THE LOTTERY

40

20 PEOPLE WAITLISTED

DeSoto Business Grant Stats

- Woman-owned: 64%
- African American-owned: 84%
- Asian-American-owned: 7%
- Latinx-owned: 2%



The CARES Act

PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATES

October is Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Have you seen the purple and pink ribbons and lights? We are painting DeSoto purple & pink! The DeSoto Parks & Recreation Department has partnered with the DeSoto Police Department, the Domestic Violence Advisory Commission (DVAC), and the Parks Development Corporation.

Walking for Awareness Campaign Participants dress the part to Stop Domestic Violence and Support Breast Cancer Awareness. Twenty-nine DeSoto residents registered to take part in the Campaign. Each participant received a complimentary gift bag with a purple mask, breast cancer bracelet and pin; and domestic violence bracelet and pin.

WALKING FOR AWARENESS

October 5th – October 23rd

Register at the **CONTROL BOOTH – BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2020**

Walk to Win a Gift Card and a Custom Parks & Rec Hoodie

Support **Breast Cancer Awareness**

or **STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Register and receive a Breast Cancer or Domestic Violence Awareness wrist band or lapel pin for participating.

The **two members** who accumulate the most steps in the **two-week period** will be announced as our **WINNERS**.

Steps can only be counted when using the following: **Treadmill, Elliptical, Incumbent Bicycles or the Walking Track**

Steps can only be calculated with a DeSoto Parks and Recreation issued pedometer

Contest **begins at 8am on October 5, 2020** and **ends at 8pm on October 23, 2020**.

A **WINNER** and **RUNNER-UP** will be announced on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020**.

PARKS DEPARTMENT UPDATES

DeSoto Parks and Recreation is delighted to announce the opening of the DeSoto Ranch Nature Trail in the Wildwood and Oakmont neighborhoods. This trail has been an exciting project, and the Parks Department greatly appreciates the community patience during the construction phase. Flyers were mailed this week to homeowners in both surrounding neighborhoods with a map reflecting details pertaining to the Nature Trail improvements and construction. The DeSoto Nature Ranch Ribbon Cutting Virtual Tour is now available to view on YouTube. The historic documentary will be ready in December. Make sure to follow DeSoto Parks on Facebook: @DESOTOPARD, Instagram: DESOTOREC, or Twitter: DESTOTX for the launching of the DeSoto Nature Trail Virtual Tour.



NATURE TRAIL VIRTUAL TOUR:

[HTTPS://WWW.DROPBOX.COM/SH/JDZMPB5ETLG8YU7/AADNRHYG74NS31R-ZSAA8FFYA?DL=0&PREVIEW=DESOTO+RANCH+NATURE+TRAIL+VT.MP4](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/JDZMPB5ETLG8YU7/AADNRHYG74NS31R-ZSAA8FFYA?DL=0&PREVIEW=DESOTO+RANCH+NATURE+TRAIL+VT.MP4)

ECONOMIC RECOVERY ADVISORY TASK FORCE

The DeSoto Economic Recovery Advisory Task Force's (ERAFT) senior outreach effort continued to move forward this week. DeSoto's ERATF continues to work with Senior Center management at DeSoto Parks and Recreation to conduct useful outreach and entertainment for our Seniors who are movement restricted due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Kathy Jones, Community Relations Manager, teamed up with Roderick Turner, Marketing Specialist for Parks and Recreation, to broadcast the Texas Winds drive-up concert by the Senior Center earlier Thursday. You can view it on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DeSotoRec/posts/3644171805595365>

Next Thursday morning, we are planning to interview DFR Chief Jerry Duffield and SWRCC head Tamara Bell live on subjects for Seniors including the "Vial of Life" Program, fire safety, the upcoming November 1, 2020, time change, smoke detector battery replacements, dangers of alternate heating sources, and what seniors need to know and share when they contact 911 and speak with emergency dispatchers.

DeSoto Library - Children's Area Virtual Tour



The City of DeSoto Library will release several virtual tours of specific areas. The first Library Virtual Tour features Librarian Miss Janelle, as she tours the Children's area of the DeSoto Library. The videos are also available on the Desoto Independent School District website. Click here to watch the tour: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpFYqjdBtcY>

ETC INSTITUTE - 2020 RESIDENT SURVEY

DeSoto's First Community Survey since the mid 2000's is entering a new phase. Survey Provider ETC received a very strong response to both the random and non-random online portion of the survey. The collection period formally ended on September 21 at 5:00 pm, and the work of analyzing and compiling data has now started.

According to ETC, DeSoto's response rates for both the random survey group and the volunteer responses were excellent. ETC did have a correction in their estimate of the number of DeSoto residents who took the non-random survey online. Therefore, the City Manager's Office continues to work with Community Survey provider ETC to review that raw data for our survey and to secure more detailed information and breakdowns. This helps us more accurately interpret the data and better prepare for future briefings and our eventual rollout. City staff are also working with ETC to construct a multi-media presentation to facilitate outreach and information sharing on the key details of the survey.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

City staff finalized the key initiatives to be included in the Strategic Plan. The key initiatives also identify responsible parties, funding requirements, and key outcomes to be achieved. The consultant is now incorporating the key initiatives into the plan as she completes the final draft. Staff initially planned to present the Strategic Plan at the October 19 Topical Work Session. However, to allow the consultant sufficient time to compile the final draft, the Strategic Plan will be presented to Council at the November 16 Topical Work Session.

WEEKLY EVENTS & MEETINGS

OCTOBER 2020

13

VIRTUAL PLANNING & ZONING MEETING

6:00 pm

19

TOPICAL WORK SESSION

6:00 pm

20

CITY COUNCIL MEETING (VIRTUAL)

5:30 pm

23

VIRTUAL FOURTH FRIDAY CONCERT

Martha Burkes, Domestic Violence Awareness Concert

27

VIRTUAL PLANNING & ZONING MEETING

6:00 pm

30

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION LUNCH & VIRTUAL RAFFLE

Council Chamber 12:30 - 1:30 pm

PAINT DESOTO PURPLE

On Friday, October 23, DVAC will partner with the DeSoto Arts Commission's Fourth Friday concert series with "Rise Up - A Domestic Violence Awareness Event" featuring the incomparable Martha Burkes. This Virtual Concert will begin at 7:00 pm via Facebook, Instagram, the City of DeSoto's Website, and Cable Channel. Please email DVAC@DeSotoTexas.gov.



PLEASE JOIN THE DESOTO POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE DESOTO PARKS AND RECREATION DEPT. FOR THE 23RD ANNUAL

SENIOR DRIVE-THRU HEALTH FAIR

**OCTOBER 13, 2020
9AM-12PM**
DESOTO SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER
204 LION ST. DESOTO, TX 75115

FREE LUNCH

WEAR A MASK

This year's event will be a social distancing event with participants attending the entire fair in their vehicles held in the parking lot at the DeSoto Senior Activity Center.

**LOCAL VENDORS
COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERS
RAFFLE PRIZES
& MORE...**

THIS EVENT IS FOR DESOTO SENIORS 55+
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.
ONLY 150 SPACES AVAILABLE SIGN UP BY
OCTOBER 8TH 2020.

SIGN UP AT [HTTPS://DESOTOSENIORHEALTHFAIR.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://desotoseniorhealthfair.eventbrite.com)

FOR MORE INFO CALL 972-230-5826

DESOTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

DESOTO PARKS & RECREATION



DeSoto Domestic Violence Advisory Commission

Paint DeSoto Purple

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

2020 OCT

BRING AWARENESS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY DISPLAYING PURPLE RIBBONS, LIGHTS OR OTHER SIGNS AT YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS! SHARE PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK @DESOTODVAC email DVAC@DeSotoTexas.gov for more info

Join the virtual Fourth Friday
Rise Up Awareness Concert
featuring
Martha Burkes

Friday, October 23 at 7 p.m. on the DeSoto Domestic Violence Advisory Commission Facebook page (DeSoto Arts Commission partnership)

For Domestic Violence help call
1-800-799-7233

NEW HIRES, PROMOTIONS & RECOGNITIONS

New Hires In October

Promotion	Status	Date of Hire	Dept	Position
Morrison, Alehia M.	FT	10.05.2020	Development Services	Plans Examiner
Aguilera, Christopher	FT	10.05.2020	Parks & Recreation	Operations Coordinator – Parks
New Hire (Temp to FT)	Status	Date of Hire	Dept	Position
Barnes, Shantrell	FT	10.05.2020	Development Services	Administrative Assistant II
New Hire (PT to FT)	Status	Date of Hire	Dept	Position
Elliott, Sydney R	FT	10.05.2020	Parks & Recreation	Youth and Business Coordinator

Employee Recognition



Matt Byars, Network Security Administrator in the IT Department, attained his Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) certification on September 25, after a long, boot-camp style training and testing program. He scored a 976 out of 1000 possible points! The CCNA certification covers a broad range of the very latest in networking, software development, and security architecture and topology. This is a tremendous accomplishment (in the COVID-19 era) and we're very proud of Matt for achieving this milestone. Congrats!